

Ballistic inspectors head for Iraq

BAHRAIN (R) — U.N. ballistic inspectors headed for Baghdad Sunday to verify whether Iraqi authorities had finished destroying the country's remaining Scud missile launching pads and "superguns". The team is "going to verify the destruction of some fixed site launchers and elements of 1,000-millimetre guns," team leader Patrice Palanque told Reuters before his departure from Bahrain. The field headquarters for U.N. inspectors visiting Iraq, Mr. Palanque said his 11-member team would fly to launch pads west and south of Baghdad to check whether they had been destroyed in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions aimed at scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. U.N. inspectors last month gave Iraqis the go-ahead to destroy about 56 missile launching pads which had not been declared by the Iraqi authorities because they were not fitted with the launch arms to make them operable. They also supervised the start of the lengthy task of cutting up to pieces the components of two 1,000-mm superguns, lying in a vast park south of Baghdad. Iraq has already destroyed one assembled and two unassembled versions of a smaller, 350-mm gun. It has also eliminated all 52 of its declared long-range Scud missiles. U.N. inspectors said in October all Iraq's known ballistic missiles and launchers would be eliminated within one month.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

Volume 16 Number 4870

AMMAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1991, JUMADEH AL OULA 26, 1412

Lebanon to insist on Israeli withdrawal

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon said Sunday it would demand an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south at the Middle East peace talks in Washington. Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told reporters Lebanon's delegation would fly to Washington on Monday to prepare for the Dec. 4 talks. Suheil Shamas, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, will head the delegation consisting of six diplomats, two army officers and a legal expert. Mr. Bouez said Lebanon was determined to evict Israeli troops from a border enclave in the south in line with U.N. Resolution 425. "The state of war in Lebanon would not be over unless the south is returned to Lebanon," he said. Israel and its Lebanese militia allies control a 15-kilometre deep zone set up by the Jewish state in 1985.

King opens Parliament; speech is government statement

Jordan committed to peace process, seeks just peace based on full Palestinian rights; government will curb external loans, carry out scheme to revive economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday reiterated Jordan's commitment to the ongoing Middle East process.

"For us, the issue of peace has been a commitment confirmed on all occasions and in all platforms," the King said in his annual address to Parliament.

"In agreeing to participate in the peace conference, we have moved in the direction of peace. We are confident of our people's ability to stand up to the challenge of the search for an honourable peace," the King said.

In a clear reference to opponents of the peace talks, the King said: "My government has responded positively to the invitation to participate in the peace conference. It has done so out of concern to defend our nation, to shoulder our responsibility towards our people and future generations."

Opening the third regular session of the 11th parliament, the King said in his traditional Speech from the Throne, that

"democracy does not confer on any single group a claim of monopoly over wisdom and truth. Nor does it provide a licence to justify encroachment on the rights and liberties of the vast majority of people, or question the role of the national security bodies entrusted with protecting the interest of the state and people."

The King then made clear that the country's commitment to peace was based on "international legitimacy expressed through U.N. resolutions in order to end the Israeli occupation; enable the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination on their national soil; implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338... stop the building of settlements... bring about Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem, and provide the means for a just and permanent peace in the region."

The King detailed his government's programme of action in

Jordan suspended most debt servicing, estimated at about \$1.3 billion a year, after being hit by the Gulf crisis last year. It has partly resumed payments but is seeking debt write-offs, or at least rescheduling, to ease the burden.

The King said the development programme's goals included cutting the trade account deficit by boosting and diversifying exports, encouraging tourism and foreign remittances, reducing imports, increasing foreign reserves and reducing foreign debt and the budget deficit.

He said the government would attack the deficit with structural reforms to hold down spending and increase revenue, partly through targeting subsidies.

The government has estimated a 1992 deficit to JD 107 million in a JD 1.27 billion budget.

The King said that despite the Gulf crisis which ravaged the economy, gross domestic product had shown surprising resilience, rising one per cent in 1991. The trade account deficit in the ba-



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday inspects an honour guard outside Parliament House prior to opening the regular session of Parliament (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

states would be another cornerstone of economic policy, the King said.

Unemployment, aggravated by the return of thousands of Jordanians in the wake of the Gulf crisis, is estimated at about one-third of the workforce.

The King also said the government would pursue reform of the budge civil service, including decentralisation.

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by Parliament. (see full text of King's speech on page 4)

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Israel 'outraged,' digs in heels against Dec. 4 talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, voicing outrage at its longtime U.S. ally, stiffened its opposition Sunday to plans for resuming Middle East peace talks in Washington this week.

In what could be last-minute posturing ahead of a compromise over the place and date, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's top aide accused the Bush administration of leading Arabs to think the United States was on their side.

"The way this thing is being conducted by the United States very much bothers us and outrages us," said Yossi Ben Aharon, director-general of Mr. Shamir's office.

"We see that the Arab states, the Arab elements with whom we must conduct negotiations, have the impression the United States is on their side," he told Israel's army radio.

Sources at a weekly cabinet meeting quoted Mr. Shamir as saying that weekend contacts with Washington had been fruitless.

"We have made our decision and we are sticking to it," they quoted Mr. Shamir as saying.

Asked if he was worried about a growing strain in relations with the United States, Mr. Ben Aharon said:

"We are dealing in very serious matters to all of us and the way this thing is being conducted today by the United States very much bothers and outrages us."

"We are very disappointed, in great pain. We are trying to right the wrong," he said.

In Washington, Israel's U.S. Ambassador Zalman Shoval met Dennis Ross, a top adviser to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, over the weekend in an effort to bridge the gap.

But Mr. Ben Aharon said on Sunday there was no change in Israel's position.

"What has to happen is for the United States to come to us with proposals in response to what we proposed," the aide told army radio.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert, usually a moderate in the largely hardline government, said Arab countries would question why they should talk to Israel if the U.S. government was willing to dictate stances to the Jewish state.

Israel wants only one or two meetings with the Arabs in Washington before returning to the Middle East or a nearby venue it believes would signal Israel's acceptance by the Arab World.

The Bush administration offered Washington as a compromise after the two sides failed to agree on a venue.

The Arabs refuse to negotiate in the Middle East, including Israel, before there is progress on their demand for an Israeli pull-out from Arab lands it occupied in the 1967 war.

U.S. President George Bush said Friday he planned to go ahead with talks on Dec. 4 whether or not Israel turned up.

Mr. Shamir himself said on Friday that he might consider sending a low-level advance team on that date which would avoid any embarrassment caused by Israel's absence.

"We are planning to start the talks Dec. 4. If the Israelis show up, all well and good. But we can't force them to come here if they don't want to," said one U.S. official Sunday.

Israel has for decades said it aspires to direct talks with the Arabs at any time and in any place.

Ministers emerging from the cabinet session did not rule out a last-minute compromise but accused the United States of humiliating the Jewish state.

"The United States is showing a lack of respect for Israel com-



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker welcomes Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to Jordan (Petra photo)

Arafat arrives for coordination talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in Amman Sunday on a brief working visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials on Palestinian-Jordanian coordination in the forthcoming bilateral and regional talks between Arabs and Israel.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said he would meet with King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials and hold talks with them on inter-Arab coordination prior to the bilateral talks, which will be held in Washington, later this week.

Mr. Arafat himself said on Friday that he might consider sending a low-level advance team on that date which would avoid any embarrassment caused by Israel's absence.

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Israel had asked for an assurance that the United States would publicly support its demand to transfer the talks to the Middle East after a maximum of two meetings in Washington.

But an Israeli source in Washington said the United States was unwilling to give such a guarantee.

"The United States is showing a lack of respect for Israel com-

pared to its treatment of the Arabs," Transport Minister Moshe Katzav told reporters.

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(Continued on page 2)

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Last American hostages to be freed within a week

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Sunday it expects the last three American hostages in Lebanon to be freed within a week.

"We expect American hostage Joseph Cicippio to be freed tomorrow. We expect the rest of the American hostages to be freed by the end of next week," a senior Syrian Foreign Ministry official told Reuters.

Asked to clarify, the source said: "The end of next week means next Sunday."

Mr. Cicippio's kidnappers announced in Beirut Sunday morning that they would free him within 48 hours as part of a U.N.-brokered swap of captives.

Within hours, Israel and its local militia allies released 25 Arab prisoners in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"Positive results and a comprehensive solution which will achieve all parties' interests and demands to close this file for good have been reached," said an RIO statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

It was accompanied by an old photograph of a bearded and haggard-looking Cicippio.

Israel's Lebanese militia allies released 25 Arab prisoners in Lebanon. The Israeli defence ministry said the move was a personal gesture to Mr. Perez de Cuelar.

The pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) said the decision to free Mr. Cicippio followed mediation involving the United Nations, Iran, Syria, Israel, Lebanon and groups led by domenico Picco.

Mr. Picco thanked Mr. Sharaf on behalf of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuelar for Syria's efforts to free the hostages.

The U.N. secretary-general requested Israel make a personal gesture towards him that would aid him in the overall processes of the mission he has initiated (to achieve a general prisoner release)," the ministry said in a statement.

Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia which patrols the "Security zone" with Israeli troops, said the release was a goodwill gesture to help the U.N. in its efforts to end the seven-year-old Middle East hostage saga.

Witnesses said the 25, including two women, were driven by two buses from the Khamis prison inside the zone.

Israeli hostage negotiator Ori Slomim said he hoped the release of the Arab would help end the hostage-prisoners drama before Mr. Perez de Cuelar's term expires on Dec. 31.

"It is a personal gesture towards the secretary general out of a belief ... it is within his power, in the 30 days left in his term, to promote a comprehensive agreement whereby all our captives

and missing will be brought back home," Mr. Slomim said.

The United Nations has been negotiating a stage-by-stage plan since August for kidnapped Western hostages and for Israel to release Arab prisoners in return for news of Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

Last month kidnappers freed two hostages without offering news of missing Israelis. Israel then refused to free Arab prisoners until it received word of its missing airman, Ron Arad, shot down over Lebanon in 1986.

Arad is the only missing Israeli known to have survived capture.

On Sunday, Mr. Slomim said there was no new word on missing Israelis but Mr. Perez de Cuelar and Mr. Picco had given Israel reason to expect the gesture Sunday would lead to an overall swap.

Arab Bank offers its banking services at the

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from Sunday

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Emirates celebrate 20 years of stability, wealth

ABU DHABI (R) — With a lot of fanfare but little conviction, seven sparsely populated and mostly impoverished Arab sheikdoms set up a federation in 1971 to secure full independence from Britain.

Few people at the time believed they would survive. On Monday they celebrate 20 years as the United Arab Emirates, a federation of sovereign states that has weathered economic and political storms to become a stable dynamo of the Arab World.

Sleek skyscrapers tower over the affluent boulevards of the two main cities, Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the oil-blessed economy is booming in contrast with post-Gulf war gloom in virtually all other Arab states.

Saudi Arabia is the UAE's only real regional competitor for the title of "boom state 1992," despite the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) that hit Abu Dhabi, wealthiest of the seven. The other members of the federation are Doha, Sharjah, Ras al-Khaimah, Umm Al Qaiwain, Ajman and Fujairah.

Fulfilling its promise, a developing agriculture using the world's most modern techniques and an infrastructure almost unrivaled elsewhere, illustrate a sustained effort that allows the UAE to boast an annual per capita income of \$18,000.

The UAE on the southern shores of the Gulf has shown unusual dynamism when the going was good and resilience in tough times.

Bankers and diplomats attribute the success to two men — the oneflappable and super-rich ruler of Abu Dhabi and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, and his Dubai counterpart Sheikh Rashid Ben Said Al Maktoum, a wily entrepreneur who turned Dubai into the commercial hub of the lower Gulf.

Sheikh Rashid died last year but his policies have been carried on by his sons.

Oil is the bedrock of the UAE. Its 2.4 million barrels per day production of crude oil — OPEC's third biggest after Saudi Arabia and Iran — is estimated to earn some \$15 billion in 1991. Sheikh Zayed's Abu Dhabi produces about 80 per cent of the UAE's oil. Most of the remainder comes from Dubai.

Much of the economic success

can be attributed to millions of expatriates who have worked in the emirates in the past two decades. Foreign workers and managers from the West, Asia and other Arab countries still outnumber less than 500,000 UAE nationals by at least three to one.

Like other Gulf states, the UAE had to weather the Gulf war sparked by Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the UAE's partner in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

But Sheikh Zayed has also faced the collapse of the BCCI, in which his family is the majority shareholder. Bankers say settlement of the BCCI affair is expected to leave the UAE president several billion dollars poorer but have no long-term effect on the country's economy.

UAE banks, hit by massive withdrawals during the Gulf crisis, have had a hard time recovering from the additional blow of the BCCI scandal.

But bankers say a building boom and continued high level of oil income has put the economy well on the road to recovery.

Abu Dhabi has been producing oil full capacity ever since it stepped in to help fill the gap left by the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports at the start of the Gulf crisis. Dubai has always produced at full capacity.

The federal government remains strapped for cash because the poorer emirates are unable to contribute. Abu Dhabi and Dubai pay the difference, based roughly on their share of oil revenues.

But this is not a real threat to the economy because it is not centrally driven as elsewhere in the Gulf, the bankers say.

Political stability built around the Abu Dhabi-Dubai axis is remarkable in view of a history of internal strife and rivalry in the territory previously known as the Trucial States. Britain was the dominant power and arbiter until full independence.

Diplomats did not disappear overnight but the leadership has always managed to smooth over any difficulties. Doubters argued when the federation was created that a tiny population and few natural resources other than oil would make it difficult to sustain.

Diplomats said the UAE had succeeded because its dominant states had largely kept out of the affairs of the smaller, poorer members while helping out financially.

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Much of the economic success

Algeria opens all its oil, gas and mines to foreigners

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has opened its oilfields, gas reserves and mines to foreign companies, giving them the right to share in deposits now being exploited and to seek and exploit new reserves.

Up to now, foreigners have been barred from the oilfields, over producing 800,000 million barrels a day, and gas reserves, which make Algeria the second largest exporter after Indonesia.

Foreign firms will be allowed to go into partnership with the state company Sonatrach, which until today had a monopoly on production at existing fields. The foreigners will be allowed a maximum of 49 per cent share in any contract.

"...Improving the hydrocarbon law remains the decisive factor in bringing the country out of crisis by using its own means," the government said in submitting its draft to parliament.

This law aims to relaunch investment and exploration, increase reserves and improve the extraction rate."

Parliament passed the new law, which covers rights to oil and gas exploitation, by 174 votes to 27 against, with 22 abstentions. A similar law was passed covering mineral reserves.

"We have given the government a legal means to allow it to relaunch investment and to activate the national economy," said Parliamentary Speaker Abdul Aziz Belkadem.

Algeria, hard-hit by debt repayments, hopes to attract \$14 billion from foreign companies in the next 10 years.

Officials hope foreign expertise will increase recovery from existing fields to 40 or 50 per cent from around 20 per cent.

Eighteen oil companies have said they are ready to invest in cooperation with Sonatrach, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said this week. Any disputes will go to international law.

Last year, Algeria exported 17.2 billion cubic metres of liquefied natural gas and 12.2 billion cubic metres of natural gas, and announced plans to boost export capacity to between 60 billion and 80 billion cubic metres a year.

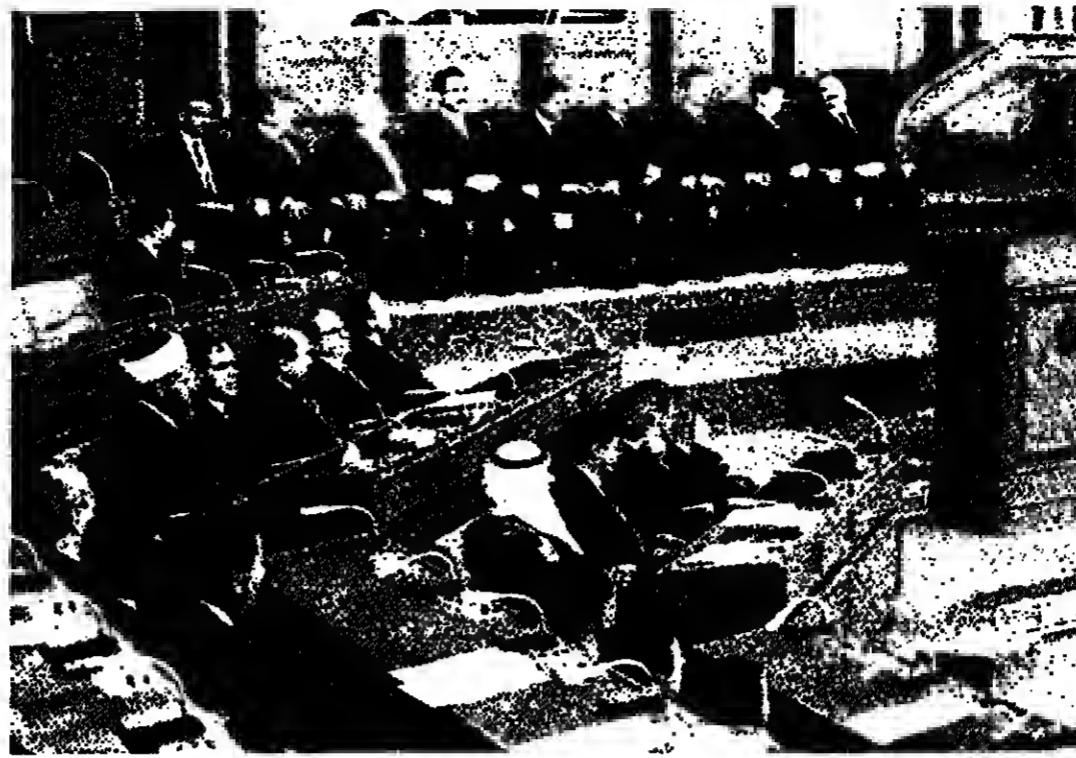
The government said: "The association (with foreign firms) in existing (oil) fields will let us to extract a supplementary 200 million tonnes, equivalent to \$300 billion."

After lunch we were drinking tea and the sun was about to set. We had had a series of discussions and the grandchildren were rushing to their grandfather (President Saddam).

The father, speaking to us as he strapped on a gun belt to go to a meeting of military commanders, said each of you should ask himself on going to bed before he puts his head to the pillow: "How many men have you rallied to the revolution and our march to victory?"

Uday turned this saying of President Saddam's into what he said would be the new slogan of the newspaper: "How many men could we rally to the leader and the revolution and to Iraq?"

While the country is about to hold the first legislative elections to open Algeria's doors to plural-



Parliamentarians and other government officials await His Majesty King Hussein at Parliament House Sunday. The King outlined his expectations

of the new government and called for cooperation

(Photo by Yousef Al 'Allam)

Arabiyat retains House speakership

(Continued from page 1)

His Majesty King Hussein opened the third regular session of the 11th parliament, a member of the Constitutional Bloc told

the Constitutional Bloc apparently made the decision to withdraw Mr. Shreideh's nomination without consulting the National Bloc.

"Those who are interested in keeping the Brotherhood in the government fold — as an active and real opposition — will support Shreideh's move," said one government insider mocking.

The panel elected to draft the Lower House's reply to the Speech from the Throne reflected the political pluralism in the Lower House. They were: Abdul Majed Shreideh, Muhammad Ahsan Oleim, Abdal Rahim Ekmur, Mohammad Dardour, Jamil Haddad, Majed Khalifeh, Abdul Munem Abo Zant, Mansour Murad, Ahmad Oweidi Abadi, Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Salameh Al Ghweiri and Yousef Al Athem.

The political alliances that have been drawn among parliamentary blocs during the last week are likely to suffer as a result of Constitutional Bloc's moves.

Parliamentary insiders said they expected that the 16-member National Bloc would be the first victim of the move. The National Bloc and Mr. Shreideh's 17-member Constitutional Bloc committed themselves Saturday to voting for Mr. Shreideh, but

The Brotherhood have had a tacit agreement with the governing forces for the last 30 years

and occasional outbursts against the government have never been seen as a "real threat".

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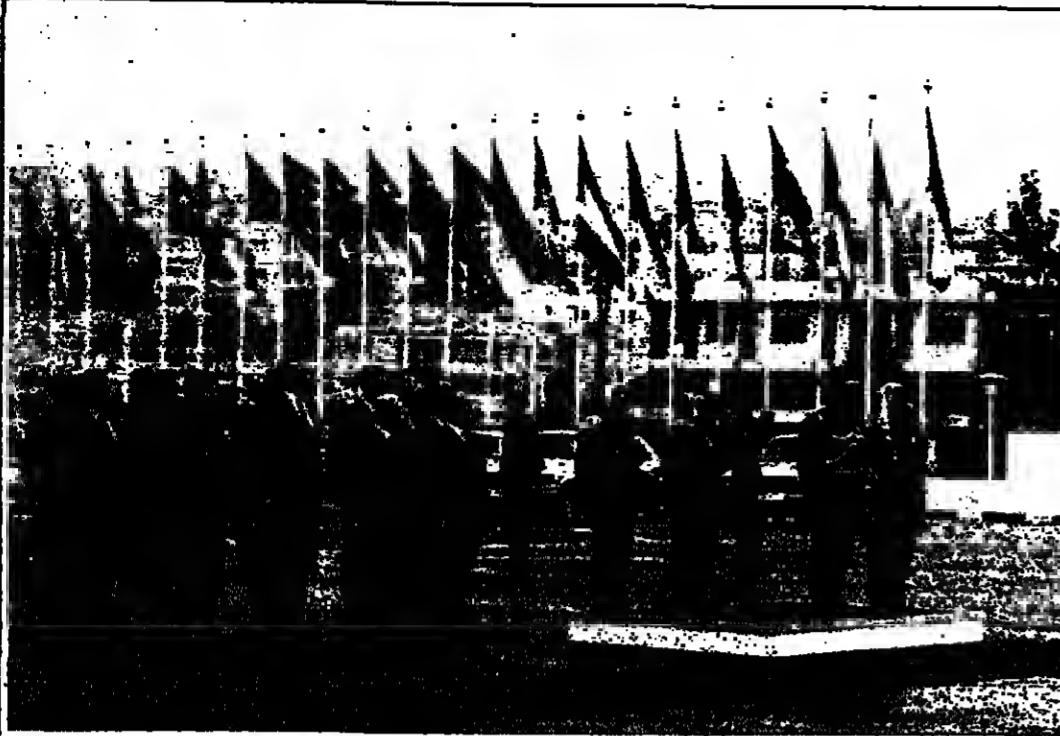
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and occasional outbursts against the government have never been seen as a "real threat".

"They have always been in the fold. It would be a shame if they were left out in the cold now," said one government insider mockingly.

The panel elected to draft the Lower House's reply to the Speech from the Throne reflected the political pluralism in the Lower



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday prepares to review an honour guard before addressing Parliament (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Upper House of Parliament official calls for cooperation with new government

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Sunday held an ordinary session under the chairmanship of the Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi.

The House listened to the Parliament's secretary general read the Royal decree postponing the Parliament's ordinary session until Dec. 1 and the Royal decree reappointing Mr. Lawzi as speaker of the Upper House.

Mr. Lawzi congratulated the House members on the opening of the ordinary session and noted that the contents of the speech from the throne constituted the basis for their work. He stressed the importance of cooperation in carrying out the responsibilities



Ahmad Al Lawzi

Officials stress importance of pastoral communities to Jordan's development

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants in a five-day workshop, which began Sunday, will assess problems, changes and major issues of concern for the development of pastoral populations in the Near East region.

The workshop, entitled "Pastoral Communities in the Near East: Traditional Systems in Evolution," aims at looking at pastoral development, changes of pastoral organisations and how people can participate in the implementation of policies and building up of institutions, according to a member of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Addressing the opening session, the secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development said that Jordan has been giving increasing attention to the development of pastoral societies to improve the state of pasture lands and attain better fodder.

Abdul Rahim Salam told the audience that by following this policy, successive Jordanian governments succeeded in settling shepherds and bedouin tribes for which it also provided social services like health and education.

Mr. Salam emphasised the need for upgraded policies to help promote pastures and promote pastoral economy. Such policies, he said, should deal with such questions as drought and improving the standard of living of pastoral communities.

"We are taking our aspirations from the traditional sys-

tems of pastoral management known as hemma," said the FAO representative.

Hemma is a traditional range management system practiced in the Mashreq region which is based on regulations to preserve land and water, according to James Riddell, Senior officer of Land Tenure and Settlement at FAO.

In a region where more than 60 per cent of the area is arid or semi-arid, the future relies on how well land is used, he said. This is the key component in regional, national as well as local rural development, he said.

According to Firas Gharibeh, from the United Nations Development Project (UNDP), "The traditional rangeland management systems and the increase of the pastoral communities population put a strain on their income generation and distributed their way of living."

The study of pastoral communal and grazing practices as well as social, economic and environmental trends and assessment of their problems, is of vital importance in order to formulate policies and programmes to help them preserve their way of living, he said at the workshop.

"It is the only possible solution," Mr. Riddell said, "because the government cannot afford such practices with its competing demand."

Involving the people will require the investment of energy and the concern of the local population, "but development cannot take place unless we play our role responsibly," he said.

There also needs to be care-

ful examination of other traditional institutions that can be made part of the modern democratic development process for livestock management, Mr. Riddell added.

Pastoral communities at one point constitute the main block of societies in all countries of this region, Mr. Gharibeh said. The social and economic development in the region during the past two decades forced — substantial changes on these communities, he said.

Currently, "in terms of administrative time, (pastoral community management) is time consuming and expensive because the focus is on range monitoring and range management. This leads to an accumulative effect," Mr. Riddell told the Jordan Times. "With the traditional method, however, it would free the existing technical staff to target its energies in specific needs — such as livestock population that are amenable to scientific knowledge, such as feedstock and animal health among others."

Participants at the workshop, which represent researchers and policy makers from Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman and Yemen, are exchanging experiences and ideas.

"We hope to obtain a specific series of future collaborations and we hope to remind people that with the environmental constraints and opportunities in the region, we have to take the pastoral population seriously. Whether the situation becomes better or worse depends on our interactions," Mr. Riddell said.

There also needs to be care-

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates emirates

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, congratulating him on his country's national day. The King wished Sheikh Zayed continued good health and happiness and the people of the emirates further progress and prosperity.

Bank grants 10 loans for projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has agreed to grant 10 loans worth JD1,560,000 to finance industrial, tourist and medical service projects. The amount included JD1,12 million which will be used for financing industrial projects and plants to produce metal parts, drip irrigation pipes, and vegetable oil. The bank has granted 95 loans, worth JD14,887,000 since the beginning of this year.

Art exhibition opens

MUTA, Karak (Petra) — An art exhibition by

Jordanian artists Umm Kulthoom Al Su'ouh and Aisha Al Sa'ouh was opened Sunday at Muta University, near Karak. The exhibition, which was opened by University Vice-President for Academic Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Atiyat, includes paintings depicting natural scenes and archaeological and touristic sites as well as ceramics, knit-wear and artificial flowers. The four-day exhibition also includes a section which displays folkloric items.

CAA delegation leaves for Sri Lanka

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Mahmoud Jamil Balqez left Amman Sunday at the head of a CAA delegation on a several day official visit to Sri Lanka for talks with air transport officials there on scopes of cooperation in the air transport field. The Jordanian delegation will also discuss issues pertaining to the air transport agreement already concluded between both countries. The delegation comprises Bassam Salaitah, director of Air Transport and Hani Begain, the assistant to the deputy director general for International Relations. Discussions covered Europe's

Queen Noor awarded 'Woman for Peace' award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has been presented the "Woman for Peace" award by the Together for Peace Foundation in Madrid in recognition of "her dedicated efforts to create better opportunities for women and to improve the quality of life of children and their families; for her commitment to promote cross-cultural exchanges and international understanding and for her active involvement in global environmental and humanitarian issues."

The Men and Women for Peace awards are presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in pursuit of the principles of peace, international cooperation and respect for human rights, according to a statement from the foundation.

Previous recipients of this award include Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Prince of Wales, Barbara Bush and former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The award was presented to Her Majesty by Mariapia Fanfani, president of the Together for Peace Foundation, last Friday.

In an address at the ceremony, special U.N. envoy to Iraq Prince Sadreddin Aga Khan expressed deep appreciation to His Majesty

King Hussein for his efforts in helping to secure the release of British businessman Ian Richter, who was serving a jail sentence in Iraq.

At the same ceremony, the "Enrique de la Mata International Prize for Peace" was conferred upon Princess Irene of Greece, the "Together for Peace Foundation Highest Acknowledgement" award was conferred upon Senator Giovanni Agnelli of Italy, and the Man and Woman for Peace awards are conferred also upon Prime Minister of Spain Felipe Gonzalez, Bernadette Chirac of France and Maria de Jesus Soares of Portugal.

The Together for Peace Foundation, an international institution, was established in February 1988 to promote and affirm the ideals of peace and solidarity throughout the world. It provided relief aid to Jordan for the returnees during the Gulf crisis, according to the statement.

Queen Sofia hosted a dinner for Queen Noor at Zarzuela Palace which was attended by members of the Spanish Royal Family.

Accompanying Queen Noor to the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Tala, Senator Leila Sharaf and the Jordanian ambassador to Spain, Shaber Bak and Mrs. Bak.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, seated next to Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain and Mariapia Fanfani, president of the Together for Peace

Foundation, was given a 'Woman for Peace' award in recognition of her efforts.

Rain exceeds cumulative yearly amount in some areas

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Meteorology Department expects more rain in Jordan Monday but on a smaller scale than the past two days.

A statement said that the rain was the result of a depression centred around Cyprus. The rain fell in most regions of the country.

Department Deputy Director Rafiq Shaker said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the average rainwater in Jordan was in Ajloun and Salt, and the least amount-fell in Aqaba.

Meanwhile, heads of agricultural departments in Karak and Irbid said that the rain that fell this week will have a beneficial effect on land sown with cereals as well as fruit trees and pasture lands.

The Water Authority and the Jordan Valley Authority have not yet assessed the amounts of water that collected in dams as a result of the rain of the past two days.

Austrian trade delegation, Jordanian officials holding talks on increasing cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Austrian trade mission headed by Peter Rattinger, director of the Middle East Department of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, has arrived in Amman for trade consultations.

The delegation consists of representatives of 19 Austrian companies who will meet Jordanian institutions and businessmen to discuss possible cooperation, according to a press release. Meetings were held Sunday and will continue today at the Regency Palace Hotel.

The list of offered products includes among others industrial equipment required for sack manufacturing and meat processing lines, raw materials and additives for the food, paint and furniture industries as well as household and industrial detergents. A wide range of cables, overhead lines, conductors and other electrical equipment made in Austria will be of interest to local electricity authorities as well as ductile pipes for the Water Authority.

The trade mission reflects the current high demand for construction materials since Austrian manufacturers of timber and indoor decoration materials are represented. Austrian medical supplies and pharmaceuticals shown at the trade mission should be well received in the Jordanian market, according to the release.

Austria, a supplier of quality equipment and materials, could contribute substantially to Jordan's development, the statement said. Among others the Arab Potash Co. was erected by a leading Austrian industrial enterprise, a large fleet of Austrian-made trucks are continuously running on Jordan roads and Royal Jordanian uses hangar facilities designed and erected by Austrian engineers. The TV-centre in Amman was planned and built by a consortium of highly specialised Austrian companies. Recently, an Austrian-built conveyor equipment was handed over at the new phosphate mine in Shidiya, the statement said.

Due to the Gulf crisis, 1990 Austrian exports to Jordan amounted to Austrian Schilling 214 million (about U.S. \$20 million) only, according to the statement. Based on the increase of industrial activities currently taking place in Jordan, a turnaround is taking place and exports are increasing again. Additional Austrian exports can be expected under the Austrian Commodity Aid Programme — a grant in the amount of Austrian Schilling 100 million (U.S. \$8.5 million) was released this year by Austria to Jordan.

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The group was received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Mr. Cheysson and his group also held talks with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and a number of cabinet members. Discussions covered Europe's

Ministers to discuss creation of pan-Arab fund

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the meetings of the Arab Ministers of Social Development due to open in Cairo Tuesday.

The ministers will discuss the creation of a pan-Arab fund to finance social work in the Arab World and means of backing social projects, including those carried out by concerned Arab institutions.

Also on the agenda is a pan-Arab project to promote the status of Arab children, the charter of the rights of the Arab Child and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Minister of Social Development Amin Mashaqbeh, who will deliver an address dealing with coordination among Arab states in social work in order to ensure security as well as on conditions in Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the return to the Kingdom by 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf states.

The speech will outline the various educational, housing, water and other basic services to be offered to the expatriates and the problem of unemployment in the country.

The minister is accompanied by two senior ministry officials to the meeting, which will last three days.

German team on visit to determine level of aid to be provided to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member German economic team led by Winfried Fuchs Sunday opened talks with Jordanian officials aimed at determining the extent of technical and capital assistance to be given to Jordan in the next two years.

The two sides first reviewed Jordanian projects financed through German aid and then made a review of various needs of the government ministries and institutions, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan's general economic situation and its need of financial assistance to overcome current difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis and other developments in the region were reviewed at the meeting, which was co-chaired by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and Mr. Fuchs, who is head of the Middle East and North Africa Desk at the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

According to Petra, the two sides signed a protocol providing for the allocation of technical and capital aid to the Kingdom and

Ministry allocated JD 4 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — Allocations for the Ministry of Youth in the 1992 fiscal budget amounted to JD 4 million, registering a 100 per cent increase over that of 1991, according to a ministry official.

He said that JD 2 million has been allocated for capital expenditures to finance sports complexes, youth camps and clubs.

the projects on which the aid will be spent.

Germany was the first country to provide assistance to the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

In 1990 and 1991, Germany made considerable efforts and provided cash and in-kind assistance to help Jordan cope with the effects of the Gulf crisis on the national economy.

In addition to the regular technical and financial cooperation, 180 million DM in 1990 and 150 million DM in 1991 were granted to Jordan in commodity aid.

As regular aid, Germany has been providing millions worth of assistance in technical assistance to boost the Kingdom's agricultural sector.

The five member team's three-day visit to Jordan comes five months after another German team's visit to Amman to follow up with the Ministry of Planning and the capital aid to the various projects being carried out in Jordan.

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The man from Gaza

By Mariana M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the first Arab-Israel peace treaty was inaugurated in one Western country were Muslims, Christians and Jews had once lived in harmony together, the world community was introduced to both old and new faces in Middle Eastern politics.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa were visible entrenched in the political status quo of the region after years of experience and exposure. The Lebanese delegate Fares Bouez was a new face, not surprisingly so since very few have had a chance to become old to Lebanon.

The Jordanians and Palestinians stood out in that they introduced not only new faces but new styles to their image abroad and at home. Men and women, old and young, Muslim and Christian all were there and all were talking.

The maximum exposure, the openness with the press and the multitude of speakers, all indicated that these people were coming from societies undergoing a change. The feudal autocratic political trends had been undergoing change in both societies and nowhere was it more evident than in Madrid.

The old guard for better or worse was being replaced. Noticeably absent from the Palestinian delegation was the one face that has come to be the face of Palestine to the world. Yasser Arafat was not there. For the first time in contemporary Palestinian history, another face, another man, another style spoke to the world in the name of Palestine.

His name and his face were unknown to the world community. Even to most Palestinians, the Gaza physician was an elegant elderly gentleman who they had never seen or heard of.

The world community ruled that Dr. Abdul Shafi's eloquent presentation of the Palestinian case in front of the world tribunal had no equal in Madrid. Almost overnight the place of the Palestinian people became clear. The Western world had been the slowest of all history students, but sud-

denly it all fell into place, even for them. The Palestinian fighters bearing arms, the refugees, the stone-throwing youths, the images that the Palestinians had brought to peoples' minds, presented to them in a language they understood, finally made sense.

Sharing with their enemies, a history of repression and denial of identity, the Palestinians reached out to the Israelis in a gesture of peace. The Israeli answer was one of refusal, but the man from Gaza refused to be provoked into an emotional rash reaction. Dr. Abdul Shafi continued to speak of peace and the spirit of co-existence.

For those who knew him before Madrid as a physician, a founding member of the biggest and most important Palestinian institution anywhere — the Palestine Liberation Organisation — and as a deportee, he had always been a community leader.

Many observers noted that the Palestinians needed both a leader of the present and one who had a strong connection with the past to present their case to the world. No one suited that role better than Dr. Abdul Shafi. At 72 he is the father figure that the Palestinians have always sought. As a founding member of the Palestinian parliament in exile, the Palestine National Council, he symbolises the political camp that fought to liberate the land by the same means that it was taken: by force. His status as deportee made him a symbol of the Palestinian suffering and his occupation as a physician made him a healer.

The political reality and the military forces that brought the Palestinians and Israelis together in Madrid also helped create the people who went to Madrid.

At 72, Dr. Abdul Shafi is almost as old as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict itself. He saw how the roots of the conflict grew in the 1930s and 1940s and watched how his native Gaza was turned into a giant refugee camp as a result of the 1947-48 war. He was there when Gaza was invaded and occupied by Israel in 1956 and again in 1967. He watched as Gaza, one of the most overpopulated areas in the world, became the birthplace of the Palestinian intifada, the uprising.

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Dr. Abdul Shafi
ing against the Israeli occupiers

History of service

Dr. Abdul Shafi began his professional life as a servant to the political order that claimed to give Arabs their freedom.

After finishing medical school at the American University of Beirut, Dr. Abdul Shafi served as a medical officer in the "mechanized brigade" of the second regiment of what was known as the 9th army in 1944. The 9th army was one component that made up the forces which were supposed to open the second front in the Balkans against the Axis powers in World War II.

Shortly after the war ended, Dr. Abdul Shafi was called on to aid care the over 200,000 Palestinian refugees that poured into Gaza as the result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

"We were swamped; the population of Gaza was 100,000 and all of the sudden it tripled; there were refugees everywhere," he recalls.

Born into a well-to-do family and the son of a member of the Supreme Muslim Council, Dr. Abdul Shafi was able to go to Dayton, Ohio, to continue his post-graduate studies at the end of 1949.

Opening a private clinic upon his return in 1954, Dr. Abdul Shafi was barely establishing himself when his native Gaza was turned into a giant refugee camp as a result of the 1947-48 war. He was there when Gaza was invaded and occupied by Israel in 1956 and again in 1967. He watched as Gaza, one of the most overpopulated areas in the world, became the birthplace of the Palestinians, "have paid already."

"They came, occupied and killed. They had no mercy," he recalls today, noting that "we have no feelings of revenge despite all that they did to us."

It was after four months of occupation and many deaths

that the Israelis finally withdrew early in 1957.

"Many people were lined up and shot; there were many massacres perpetrated by the Israelis in Khan Younis, Rafah and Gaza City," Dr. Abdul Shafi recalls of a time when he treated mostly people with shot wounds.

The occupation lasted for four months and a half. Only after the American intervention at the time by President Eisenhower did the Israelis withdraw," he said. Eisenhower sent an ultimatum. The next morning everyone woke up and there were no Israelis in Gaza."

Dr. Abdul Shafi compares America's elation with the Israelis at the time to the situation today. "Only the Americans can change Israel," he says.

Ten years later, Gaza saw the beginning of yet another Israeli occupation; this time it was to be longer and even more brutal than the one that had preceded it.

The occupation authorities wasted no time in forcing their rules on the occupied. In 1969, Dr. Abdul Shafi was detained for a period of three months to the Sinai for security reasons. Only a few months after his return, he was deported to Lebanon. After a three-month period, Dr. Abdul Shafi and a group of five other deportees were granted special amnesty and allowed to return.

The threat of banishment has remained a reality for Dr. Abdul Shafi and the rest of the Palestinian population living under Israeli occupation. But banishment and oppression have made the Palestinians into exactly the kind of people who are the least likely to accept the status quo.

If the peace fails," Dr. Abdul Shafi warned, "something terrible will happen; the forces of extremism will prevail."

As the next round of talks between Arabs and Israelis are about to begin, Dr. Abdul Shafi will again lead the Palestinians to the peace table to talk of co-existence.

Having accepted Israel's existence on land taken by force, Dr. Abdul Shafi explains that peace has a price "for them and for us." "We," he says of the Palestinians, "have paid already."

King addresses Parliament session

(Continued from page 4)

towards containing the effects of the crisis. Contrary to expectations, the gross domestic product for 1991 has achieved a positive growth of up to one per cent. The ratio of consumption to gross domestic product decreased from 119 per cent in 1990 to 101.5 per cent in 1991, a decrease of 17.5 per cent also, the trade account deficit in the balance of payments was reduced by 16 per cent during the same period.

The government will continue to control expenditure whilst striving to provide a good level of services. It will persist in providing subsidies wherever necessary while ensuring that there is no waste of resources or unnecessary growth in expenditure.

The government will continue to deal with the foreign debt and rescheduling process with a view to reducing the burden. It will pay special attention to the management and control of the external and domestic public debt. External borrowing will be curtailed and will be restricted to soft development loans.

Unemployment and poverty continue to pose a great challenge to our social fabric. The government will maintain its strategy of encouraging investment and production geared towards the creation of new job opportunities. To this end, the government has reviewed all relevant regulations which aim at activating the private sector to enable it to play its part in developing the process of production and increasing jobs. It has taken appropriate measures to regulate the domestic market and guest labour. The government has maintained its efforts with sister countries aimed at finding new job opportunities for Jordanian workers.

With regard to those institutions directly involved in combating poverty and unemployment, the government has sought to support social-work and voluntary organisations through providing financing for the implementation of integrated social and productive projects. It has facilitated the provision of easy loans for small projects through the specialised credit agencies. It has expanded the scope of the development and employment fund and has augmented the role of the Vocational Training Organisation to include training, rehabilitation and assistance in the establishment of small projects by its own graduates.

Despite the difficulties facing the Jordanian economy, the government will persist in dealing with the problem of farmers' debts with a view to alleviating the burden it imposes on farmers. The government will exert continuing efforts to resume and activate the development process through a range of measures. These include: Instituting a medium-range national development programme, expanding the private sector's role in the production activities, providing for a competitive investment climate, the identifying of sectoral problems, and adopting policies, measures and incentives to enhance private-sector participation in the process of development. The goals of this development programme are to:

1. Activate the development process and achieve positive growth rates that would have a beneficial effect on the standard of living of citizens.
2. Effect a gradual reduction of the ratio of consumption to gross domestic product.
3. Reduce the trade account deficit in the balance of payments through increasing and diversifying exports, encouraging tourism and remittances from abroad, and reducing imports.
4. Augment foreign currency reserves, reduce the reliance on foreign loans and decrease the debt burden.
5. Reduce the budget deficit through introducing structural reforms with regard to expenditures and revenues and targeting subsidies directly to those who need them.

My government is currently preparing a national strategy for the protection of the environment with the purpose of ensuring a sustainable ecological balance among its principal components in such a manner as to protect the well-being of the citizens now and in the future. It is also

working on activating local councils and enabling them to play their part in the development of our cities, villages and local communities on an integrated basis.

My government accords the important issue of water the highest priority. It is fully cognisant of the political, legal, economic, social and technical aspects of the difficult water situation in the country. This requires not only an effective management of water resources, but also a policy of conservation, augmentation of available resources and a constant search for new sources. Through these measures, we hope to meet the water needs of Jordan now and in the future.

We would also need to work hard to protect our acquired rights to waters shared by neighbouring countries, within the framework of regional solutions to ensure Jordan's water needs.

**Members of the Upper House,
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,**

The ratification of the National Charter by our people was in an expression of their national and human aspiration. We must, therefore, regard the principles of the charter as guiding rules to our political action and democratic approach, as well as our social, scientific and economic progress. Recourse must be made to the charter by all our institutions in the process of enacting legislation, drawing up strategies or instituting plans in the various walks of life and as a means of ensuring the rule of law and strengthening our democratic society. The National Charter must be faithfully honoured and consulted at a stage of our development when we seek to bolster equality, justice and equal opportunity in this country which has carved out for itself a glorious chapter in the nation's modern history through its unique response to the difficult challenges it has faced as well as through its unbending commitment to its national pride.

We are at the thresholds of a new era which holds the prospects of profound and radical changes. These enormous challenges impose on us the responsibility of facing them with wisdom and foresight. They require us to widen the scope of our awareness and our future hopes and to reject signs of divisiveness and weakness of resolve.

My government, therefore, will interact with this new phase with enhanced courage, sense of responsibility, discipline and awareness in order to protect the country and its citizens from all dangers and conspiracies and in order to bolster its achievements and its dignity, security, progress and prosperity. We must all realise that Jordan's historic pan-Arab role continues to assert itself.

In order to preserve this role, we have had to cope with the burden of being besieged and misunderstood. We have chosen to rise up to the challenge because of the principles upheld by our forebears as they hoisted the liberating flag of the Great Arab Revolt. It was the same principles that our soldiers defended on the walls of Jerusalem and on the two banks of the river. As we rise to the battle for peace, we shall remember the sacrifices made by our ancestors in fighting injustice, aggression and oppression and in seeking justice, peace and freedom for the country, its people and its future generations.

Peace be with you and God's mercy and His blessings.

Feelings run deep as Algerians prepare for multi-party election

By John Bagley
Reuter

ALGIERS — Ahmed Ben Bella, former Algerian president and a party leader in the country's first multi-party general election next month, ran into a barrage of shoes at a rally in the eastern town of Souk Ahras.

Throwing shoes — in this case by bearded fundamentalists — is an extreme insult in Arab culture and the incident showed the depth of feeling as Algeria prepares for an unprecedented experience — free elections after decades of one-party rule.

"Traitors... trying to hide your beards," Ben Bella, leader of the Move-

ment for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), shouted back at the hecklers, whom his age — 74 — and status counted for nothing.

The event was widely reported in national newspapers, amid the cacophony of political debate, as 49 parties and 1,089 independent candidates — a total of 5,790 hopefuls — stand by to chase the electors in earnest.

Poised on the brink of an experiment which could bring either democracy, uncertainty or an Islamic fundamentalist state to this North African country of 25 million people, Algeria is being carefully watched by its North African neighbours.

France, with its large immigrant

seats. The FLN is already talking about a post-election coalition or government of unity, another first."

Other leading parties, by numbers of candidates now officially released, are the centre-right Algerian Renewal Party (361), the Islamic Party Hama (380), Ben Bella's MDA (334), and the Socialist Forces Front of Independence war veteran Hocine Ait Ahmed (322).

Protests by FIS militants led

President Chadli Benjedid to postpone the elections from the original date, June 27. At rallies since the FIS has erected huge prison-type bars as a reminder that its detained leaders still dictate its actions.

Closely linked to the FLN, the National Liberation Front (FLN), which ruled from independence in 1962, chasing 429

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Protests by FIS militants led

President Chadli Benjedid to postpone the elections from the original date, June 27. At rallies since the FIS has erected huge prison-type bars as a reminder that its detained leaders still dictate its actions.

Closely linked to the FLN, the National Liberation Front (FLN), which ruled from independence in 1962, chasing 429

seats. The FLN is already talking about a post-election coalition or government of unity, another first."

Other leading parties, by numbers of candidates now officially released, are the centre-right Algerian Renewal Party (361), the Islamic Party Hama (

France wins international water skiing tourney in Aqaba

By A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The French water skiing team Sunday won the Aqaba International Skiing competition with a total of 4,788.1 points.

The Swiss team came in second with a total of 4,221.5 points followed by the British team with 4,148.3 points.

The competition, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, was organised by the European Skiing Federation

in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Marine Sports Federation on the occasion of King Hussein's birthday.

Slalom competition

Switzerland won first and second places with 245.4 and 242.4 points, followed by Germany with 631.3 points in third place.

France won in the men's over-55 group with 481.8 points followed by Italy with 387.8 points and Sweden with 348.9 points.

Tricks competition

Switzerland won the ladies tricks competition's first and second places with 338.2 and 246.2 points followed by Germany in third place with 183.1 points.

In the men's 35-44 age-group Denmark won first place with 400.3 points followed by Italy with 379.6 points and Sweden with 251.3 points.

In the 45-54 age-group Sweden won first place with 245.1 points. France came second with 206.9 points and Germany finished third with 191.3 points.

In the over-55 group Switzerland came first with 141.7 points followed by France with 108.6 points and Britain with 104.5 points.

OVERALL STANDINGS

	Slalom	Tricks	Jump	Total
France	2220.7	646.5	1920.9	4788.1
Switzerland	2558.5	191.2	691.8	4221.5
Britain	1893.9	428.2	1826.2	4148.3
Germany	1816.3	715.7	1354.6	3886.7
Austria	2204.1	324.8	1171.5	3700.4
Denmark	1234.9	763.4	794.4	2793
Belgium	1456.4	175.8	926.5	2558.7
Italy	1157.5	423	784.4	2364.9
Sweden	1694.6	515.1	—	2208.7
Greece	1138	97.2	140	1375.2
Total	658	159.3	494.1	1312.4

Leconte once more becomes the French hero

L'ON, France (R) — Henri Leconte once more played the French hero Saturday, carrying his team to victory in the doubles to open a lead of 2-1 over the United States in the Davis Cup final.

Leconte, who pulled off a sensation when he beat Pete Sampras in the second singles Friday, teamed with Guy Forget to beat the experienced American partnership of Ken Flach and Robert Seguso 6-1 6-4 4-6 6-2.

The victory gave the underdogs

an option on their first Davis Cup triumph in almost 60 years when the two return singles are played Sunday.

Spurred on by the deafening roar of 8,000 French fans in the Palais Des Sports, Leconte played another sublime match, producing a series of brilliant return winners and some breathtaking shots.

The French duo were mobbed by the whole home team as they came off court at the end of the match and non-playing captain

Yannick Noah could hardly speak for tears of joy.

"We want to win," he shouted excitedly.

Forget plays the first return singles against Sampras with Leconte coördinating the tie against Andre Agassi.

France need to win just one of Sunday's singles to take the cup for the first time since 1922.

As world number seven, Forget had been expected to be the kingpin of France's squad but

he lost the opening singles Friday to Agassi and looked surprisingly fragile at times in the doubles.

Leconte, who fell to 16st in the world after a third back operation in July this year, was in masterly form however as he constantly egged Forget on to victory.

It was their eighth Davis Cup match as a doubles pair and their eighth victory. The American pair had lost only once in 12 previous ties.

France need to win just one of Sunday's singles to take the cup for the first time since 1922.

As world number seven, Forget had been expected to be the kingpin of France's squad but

Bayern faces discontent after 5th home defeat

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich, German soccer's flagship for the last 10 decades, continued their disastrous season when they were beaten 4-3 at home by Werder Bremen.

Bayern, who have won the title a record 12 times, suffered their fifth home defeat of the season to slip to 12th place. The Bundesliga's most expensive outfit of stars look like being reduced to spectators in the tight title race.

Eintracht Frankfurt remained

top of the league despite a surprise 1-1 draw at home with Fortuna Dusseldorf.

They lead on goal difference from second-place VFB Stuttgart, 2-0 victors over newly-promoted Duisburg, and Borussia Dortmund, who beat Karlsruhe 1-0 Friday.

With just two games remaining before the Bundesliga's traditional winter break, Bayern seem to have completely lost their way and face a soul-searching winter

of discontent.

This season's drama and pathos at the Munich club, who have won the title five times in the last seven years, would provide a fitting script for a sporting soap opera.

A trainer has been fired, a former veteran international

lured out of retirement to keep goal and two of German soccer's biggest names brought in to get the club out of trouble. Yet the team's form seems to be getting worse.

Despite the close scoreline, Werder had little trouble in securing their first win in Munich for 23 years against a lackluster Bayern side who lacked creativity and organisation.

The Bavarians have now lost

more games than they have won in Munich's Olympic Stadium, which used to be the most intimi-

dating ground in the Bundesliga. During the week Bayern voted to allow former players Franz Beckenbauer and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge to take over as vice-presidents with the responsibility of improving the playing staff.

Beckenbauer, West Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning coach, and Rummenigge, a former team captain, were the third big names to join the club this season.

After Dane Soren Lerby replaced sacked coach Jupp Heynckes, former national team goal-keeper Toni Schumacher came out of retirement to solve injury problems with the club's keepers.

Both Beckenbauer and the 18,000 crowd, small by Bayern standards, saw the visitors quickly build up a 3-0 lead with goals from New Zealand striker Wynston Rufer, Marco Bode and Steffen Kohn in the seventh, 32nd,

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

PLAY OR DEFEND?

Both vulnerable, South deals.

declarer can win any return, draw the outstanding trumps and then

cash out four diamond tricks for a club discard from hand. Declarer will concede only one club trick, making four odd.

The defenders can do better, however. Suppose that East inserts the ten of hearts at trick one. Now you can win the king and take the trump finesse (or lead ace of trumps and another). East takes the king and leads a low (1) heart to West's queen. West shifts to a club and the defenders take two club tricks to go with the heart and spade already in the bank. Down one.

Have you changed your mind about the outcome of the hand? Did you elect to defend? Well, let's go back to the first trick. Now suppose that declarer plays the jack of hearts on the lead of the two. East's goose is cooked. No matter what the defenders do, West cannot gain the lead to push a club through. In the fullness of time declarer will get a club discard on the diamonds and make four spades.

Opening lead: Two of ♠

Here's another opportunity to test your analytical skills. Study all four hands and decide whether or not South should make four spades after West leads a low heart.

If East goes up with the ace of hearts and returns the suit, declarer wins the king and takes a trump finesse, losing to East's king. But

HORSCOPES NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"When I go to heaven, will I get a halo big enough to cover my bald spot?"

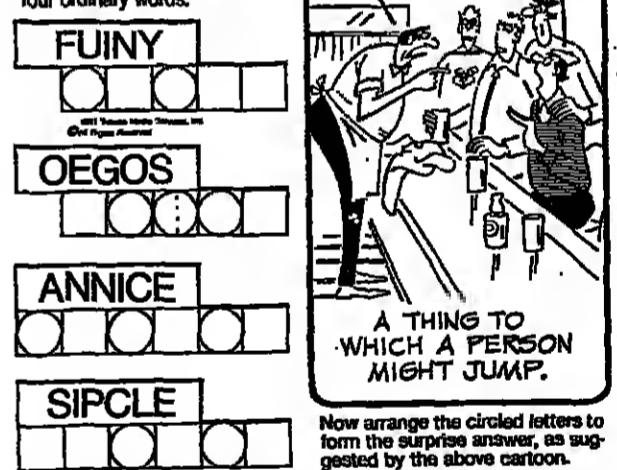
JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

By Herb Arnold and Bob Lee

Here's what I think

Walk-out me out



Answer here: A (circle)

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: EMERY GAMUT NAUGHT PRISON
Answer: Where gnomes live IN "GNOME-MAN'S" LAND

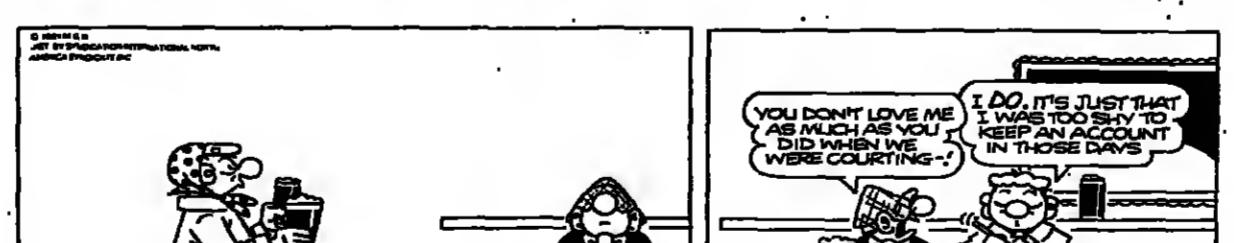
THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	In addition
5	Confused condition
8	Blind
14	Gaze intently
15	Tiny bird
16	On the side
17	So be it
18	Vast multitude
19	Bored stiff
20	Submit
23	Ceaseless
24	Nav. off.
25	Attempt
26	Bill
28	Enemy
30	Much improved
33	Inside and rebound
36	Right to vote
38	Czech river
39	Amara
40	Certain savings
41	Musical collections
43	Stagger
44	That can be
45	Peculiar
46	In the past
47	Hole-punching tool
50	Impress deeply
54	Cool off
55	Broadcast
56	Jump or mule
61	Wife
62	Transparent
63	Transmitted
64	Pegout
65	Listen seriously
66	Peppers
67	Troughs
DOWN	
1	Quickly
2	Bad purchase
4	Adversary
47	Young
51	Apiece
52	Roof surface
53	Modern Design & Knitting Co.
54	Janbek Bldg.
55	Indian
56	Being also serve
57	Eaten
58	Physician's able

Andy Capp



Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 25-November 29, 1991)

AMMAN — The U.S. currency rose substantially against European currencies last week, in a technical correction that was made possible in the context of other favourable factors. These ranged from positive U.S. economic reports, to market concerns over the possibility of another Soviet coup. The dollar thus ended an average of two per cent higher against major European currencies, compared to the previous week, but only marginally higher against the yen.

The dollar rallied against European currencies Monday, but dropped sharply against the yen. The movements were attributed to technical corrections to balance the dollar's oversold positions last week. The yen's advance was likewise caused by short covering against the mark, which was triggered in Tokyo after the governor of the Bank of Japan was reported to have said that a higher to the yen is needed to reduce the surging trade balance. The U.S. unit thus ended at its lowest closing levels of the week at 1.5885 marks, 127.92 yen, and 1.7935 dollars to the pound sterling, but above its close at the end of the previous week against the European currencies.

Tuesday witnessed wide fluctuations, as the U.S. currency gyrated between a low of 1.5780 and a high of 1.6255 marks, before closing at a slightly lower level in New York. Observers maintained that the dollar was initially sold on the release of October's Consumer Confidence Index in the U.S. revealing a sharp decline to 50.6 per cent, its lowest since the 1982 recession. But the U.S. unit soon reversed direction upon news of a statement made by the German economics minister, in which he was thought to have favoured an exchange rate range of 1.60-1.70 marks to the dollar. Analysts, however, maintained that traders had over-reacted to the minister's comments, pointing out that he was merely stating exporters' views and not German policy. German official statements confirmed this analysis later on. Nevertheless, the dollar breached resistance at 1.60 marks and 130 yen to close in New York at 1.6110 marks and 130 yen.

The U.S. unit rose again Wednesday, buoyed by a couple of strong economic U.S. data releases. Weekly jobless claims fell by 80,000 and October's Durable Goods Orders soared by three per cent compared to its 4.2 per cent drop the previous month, thus overshadowing a 0.4 per cent decline in October's Consumer Spending. The U.S. currency also received a political boost from comments by Russian and Soviet foreign ministers who alluded to the possibility of another coup in the USSR very soon, if economic conditions continue to worsen.

Market sensitivity to Soviet reports and rumours lingered in the Far East and Europe towards the end of the week, with the U.S. traders away on Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, and particularly after Lithuania's deputy prime minister reiterated the same fears regarding a possible coup. The dollar thus reached a peak of 1.6350 marks Friday, with mark sales for yen accentuating the dollar's gains against the mark, but limiting it against the Japanese unit. But news later on during New York trading, that President Gorbachev dismissed the reports, helped to ease the dollar, particularly with market participants hesitating to keep open positions over the weekend. The dollar thus ended the week substantially higher against European currencies but with limited gains against the yen, which ended substantially higher against the mark at 79.03 yen to the mark, compared to 81.67 yen to the mark at the end of the previous week.

Market participants await the release of a string of U.S. economic reports this week, which analysts expect will largely determine the direction of the U.S. currency, especially after most traders covered their dollar short positions last week. They explained that the Soviet troubles were grasped as a welcome opportunity to correct a technically oversold position, adding that it would be harder for more Soviet speculation alone to hold the dollar up against the flow of U.S. economic data. Technical analysts, on the other hand point to a trading range of 1.60 to 1.65 marks during the course of this week, with strong support at 1.6255 marks and resistance at 1.6430 marks. Over the longer term, some expectations still point to 1.55 marks to the dollar before the end of January 92.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	22/11/91 Close	29/11/91 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.7935	1.7683	-1.41%
Deutsche Mark	1.5845	1.6257	+2.53%
Swiss Franc	1.4105	1.4342	+1.65%
French Franc	5.4165	5.5509	+2.42%
Japanese Yen	129.41	129.95	+0.42%

* USD Per STG

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/12/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6810	0.6830
Sterling Pound	1.2030	1.2090
Deutsche Mark	0.4185	0.4206
Swiss Franc	0.4743	0.4767
French Franc	0.1226	0.1232
Japanese Yen*	0.5235	0.5261
Dutch Guilder	0.3718	0.3737
Swedish Krona	0.1141	0.1147
Italian Lira*	0.0556	0.0559
Belgian Franc	0.0234	0.0244

* Per 100

Recession swells demand for help in U.S.

CHICAGO (R) — The hungry and the needy are asking for help in swelling numbers across the United States as Christmas nears in the grip of a recession which has robbed many of their jobs, charitable agencies have said.

A food pantry in the largely white, usually affluent suburbs northwest of Chicago ran out of food. A church in San Francisco reports that middle class contributors have stopped writing cheques. The Salvation Army is trying to find a way to help millions more than it did last year.

"The need has increased tremendously," Leon Ferraez, a spokesman for the Salvation Army, said.

"Last year we helped 6.8 million (at Christmas time). We are expecting to assist nearly eight million this year," he said. "The need keeps going up but the money doesn't."

"We're seeing almost a white collar kind of poverty," Mr. Ferraez added. "People are worried about being laid off (losing jobs),

uncertain about their future. They really don't know what's going to happen. They're not spending money."

"We need to raise maybe \$170 million, as opposed to \$155 million last year. In some areas of this country there is a 200 per cent increase in demand for services," he said.

In San Francisco, the Reverend Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, said:

"I've been here 20 years and I have never seen the lines increase so rapidly. There is an intensity, a quickness to it, that surprises us."

The church helps about 4,500 people every day, he said. He estimated the pleas for help have grown by about 25 per cent in the past year.

"We know by the calls we're getting that people want quick relief. They want it in regards to food first. They want some kind of shelter, and clothes," Reverend Williams said.

"The critical thing is that we're down 30 per cent in money (con-

tributions) from last year. We're down about 45 per cent in what we call middle class contributions — the checks for \$25 to \$100.

This recession is really hitting middle class America," he said.

In Chicago the local office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews said it was swamped with requests for help after it announced a food programme for residents of public housing estates.

"We feed 17,000 people last year. We fed 20,000 this year, said Tammy Bohon, chairman of the event.

Meanwhile, American consumers are entering the crucial Christmas shopping season with their confidence at its lowest level in more than a decade, according to a survey which spells bad news for retailers.

The consumer confidence index compiled by the Conference Board, a business research group, fell to its lowest level since May 1980, dropping to 50.6 from 60.1 in October, when it was already described as recessionary.

The index is based on a 1985 average of 100.

A separate survey published by the University of Michigan said

consumer sentiment fell to 69 last month from 78.3 in October, according to sources who have seen the private report. University officials were not available to comment.

"The sharp decline in consumer confidence over the past two months cuts across all segments of the population — all age groups, all income brackets and all regions of the country," said Fabian Linden, executive director of the Conference Board's Consumer Research Centre.

This is the classical profile of a recession."

Of those surveyed, only 4.8 per cent said jobs were plentiful, while 47.9 per cent said jobs were hard to get.

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of all goods and services produced in the United States and is never more important than during the Christmas shopping season, which traditionally starts in early December.

The University of Michigan index, based on a 1966 level of 100, has not been below 69 since February, during the Gulf war. In February the index was at 62, according to the Commerce Department, which uses the report in its monthly index of leading indicators.

Algerian parliament allows foreign companies to invest in energy field

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's decision to open its oil, gas and mineral wealth to foreign exploitation and expertise should bring it welcome hard cash next year and long-term better oil production, diplomats and industry experts said Sunday.

"Just about every big oil company in the world is interested," one oil industry expert said.

The Algerian parliament Saturday night passed laws allowing foreign firms, up to now banned from sharing output at existing

Yeltsin solves financial row

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed after talks with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday to guarantee funds from the Soviet state bank to ensure payment of salaries and other budget items.

A statement issued by Mr. Gorbachev's office appeared to end a deadlock between the state bank, Gosbank, and the Soviet parliament, which had refused to authorise credits of 90.5 billion rubles (\$156 billion at the official rate).

Gosbank said the two presidents reached broad agreement on how to cut expenditure by Soviet federal authorities to reduce the country's budget deficit.

"If these conditions are observed, Russia is prepared to assume responsibility for guaranteeing the credits of Gosbank," the statement said.

Energy Minister Noydine Ait Laoussine, who hopes the change will bring \$14 billion in the next 10 years, said in an interview after the vote. "... It is not possible for a country like Algeria to content itself with a recovery level of 22 per cent when you compare that with achieved in the world..."

The government believes foreign expertise and cash can help

fields, to take up to 49 per cent in known and future oil, gas and mineral reserves.

The state oil and gas giant Sonatrach will keep a minimum of 51 per cent.

"Shell, B.P. and Exxon, which probably have the cash and resources to do it, are very interested ... I know that Neste, the Finnish firm, is also keen. A lot of its crude came from Russia which has dried up," the oil industry expert said.

OPEC member Algeria is also keen to use the power provided by the quality of its oil to increase world prices.

Mr. Ait Laoussine said in an interview in London last month:

"We shouldn't shy (away from) using that power to defend our prices ... it is a tool in our hands if tomorrow prices are allowed to fall."

Prime Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali put his considerable political muscle into getting the law passed, seeing it as a lifeline for the North African country's 25 million people.

The government insisted investment conditions must be made favourable enough to attract foreigners in an increasingly competitive climate.

Senior Western oil industry executives, warning Gulf oil producers recently, said new opportunities for exploration and investment, particularly in the Soviet Union, could take foreign investment to areas where re-

wards were greatest.

Last week, Mr. Ghazali said 18 firms had expressed interest ahead of the parliamentary vote. He did not name them.

A Western diplomat said that besides those named by the oil expert, among others known to be interested in an enhanced recovery programme were the ARCO, Texaco, Chevron, Occidental, Total of France, Italy's AGIP and the Danish firm Maersk.

"The key is to attract the American majors who have the financial muscle," he added.

"I am sure it will attract money but it won't be \$7 billion. I think the lower end of about \$2 billion will be in the bag part way through next year."

Another diplomat also forecast "\$2 billion, but I can't see it coming before the second half of next year," pointing to political uncertainty in Algeria.

"The serious companies will wait for the election. A new parliament is not likely to be in place by March," he added.

"The change in law is a positive development and signifies the intent of the government to continue economic reforms," another Western diplomat commented.

Yields would vary on an annual basis according to the average rate of interest for cost of funds within the Kuwaiti banking system, he said.

In a drive to force troubled banks to stand on their own feet, the central bank would also stop guarantees on shareholder's equity although guarantees on deposits would remain, he said.

"The intention of this process is to clear completely the banking system of all the bad debts they have so that they can start fresh as if they are newly established banks," he said in reply to a question from reporters.

At the same time, removal of the government guarantee on shareholders' equity would "give the banks complete responsibility for their decisions," he said.

"I believe that before the year-end the process must be complete otherwise there will not be any kind of benefit for the balance sheets of the Kuwaiti banks," he pointed out.

Sheikh Salem said he was referring only to domestic debts, including loans hit by Iraq's invasion in August last year and the accumulation of bad debts dating back to the 1982 collapse of Kuwait's unofficial secondary stock market, Souq Al Manakh.

Economists say the emirate's banks have also been hit by a fall in the speculative value of their stock and capital flight.

"I can't give you a concrete answer but I believe it's (domestic bad debts) a volume of around 5.7 billion Kuwaiti dinars (\$19.9 billion)," Sheikh Salem said.

He said the maturity of bonds issued by the central bank would depend on the rescheduling process with debtors but added:

"We at the central bank believe those types of bonds should not exceed a maturity of 15 years from the date of issue. But the tranches of maturities of such bonds perhaps will start from eight to ten years depending on the rescheduling process."

"And the level of interest will be the average rate of interest of the cost of funds for the Kuwaiti banking system. That will be fixed on annual basis so that the banks will not be incurring losses," he added.

Sheikh Salem told reporters the average cost of funds rate for 1991 was being worked out by the central bank. But he said it might not reach the pre-invasion 1989 level of five per cent. Some banks are hoping for an interest rate of eight per cent.

Sheikh Salem said the central bank was pressing on with plans to merge undercapitalised commercial banks and forge stronger links between Kuwaiti and international institutions.

This would require a review of the overall structure of the banking and financial system, including amendment of existing laws and regulations, he said in prepared remarks to the 17th meeting of the Inter Arab Cambist Association. But he stressed that banks would have to become more self-reliant.

"Banks and financial institutions must prepare their own individual plans for the future, which will be a period of self-reliance, competition and integration with international markets," he said.

"The Central Bank of Kuwait will provide the monetary and supervisory framework for stability and competition," he said. "But the banks and financial institutions will have to prove their ability to adjust and compete."

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Last date for submission of pre-qualification forms will be December 10, 1991 at 1200 hours.

CONCORD Cinema Tel: 677420

World News

Ukraine voters tell Gorbachev to recognise independence

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian voters cast their ballots for independence Sunday, ignoring warnings from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that their country would face disaster on its own.

A sample of voters interviewed as they left a polling station on Kiev's Vladimir Street, a short walk from the golden domes of the St. Sophia Cathedral, all said they had voted for independence.

"Of course I voted for independence," said Oksana Alshits, a housewife. "We all think that the Ukraine can survive on its own. We have lots of talented people."

Asked what she thought of warnings of catastrophe from Mr. Gorbachev, she replied: "That's not our business. We want to look after ourselves."

Opinion polls say up to 80 per cent of the 37.5 million voters are likely to back independence for the Ukraine, a strong farming and industrial republic with a population of 53 million and an area larger than France.

Mr. Gorbachev told U.S. President George Bush Saturday that "yes" vote in the referendum did not mean the Ukraine was making a break from Moscow.

"To push matters in this direction would mean heading for disaster — for the union, for the Ukraine itself, for Russia, for Europe and the world," he said in a telephone conversation reported by Soviet News Agency (TASS).

But most Ukrainians are confident that breaking away will bring them greater prosperity.

They hope a pro-independence vote will bring quick recognition from Western countries, including the United States.

Mr. Kravchuk dismissed Gorbachev's warnings that the Ukraine would face catastrophe if it cut itself off from the Soviet Union.

"There will be no catastrophe of any kind," he told reporters after casting his vote for independence in a central Kiev polling station.

He predicted that the pro-independence vote in some parts of the Ukraine might be as high as 90 per cent and firmly rejected suggestions that independence might plunge the Ukraine into a Yugoslav-type conflict with Russia.

"What is important here is the reaction ... of the leadership of the former union to the processes which are happening and their acceptance of those processes," he said.

In a separate development, Kazakhstani leader Nursultan Nazarbayev, certain of winning the republic's first presidential poll Sunday, says he sees the election as a vote on his plans to introduce a free market economy.

"I don't think people should vote for me so much as for the programme we are proposing, so that we can bear the difficult transitory period," Mr. Nazarbayev, the only candidate, told reporters after casting his vote in the capital, Alma-Ata.

His economic programme includes wide-ranging privatisation, freezing of prices, introduction of a new currency and getting more control over the exploitation of

resources.

But the leadership in this republic of 16 million people acknowledges that living standards are likely to fall as prices rise and inefficient state concerns move towards bankruptcy when state subsidies are gradually withdrawn.

In Washington, the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) believes Mikhail Gorbachev will be forced from power in the Kremlin by the end of this year, U.S. News And World Report magazine said Saturday.

The magazine said in the "Washington Whispers" section of its latest edition that Mr. Gorbachev would be forced from office as president of the Soviet Union if the Ukraine secedes.

"In briefings late last month, Robert Gates, the CIA's new director, predicted that after the secession of the Ukraine from the union, Mikhail Gorbachev would be forced to quit by the end of the year," U.S. News said.

The magazine said Mr. Gates's analysis convinced U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft to urge President George Bush to recognise Ukrainian independence.

A CIA spokesman had no comment on the report.

Mr. Bush said Friday that there would be no major break with Mr. Gorbachev over the Ukraine.

The United States is expected to begin a process towards recognition of the Ukraine if voters there approve independence.

"This is the first official docu-

ment concerning the right of all Soviet states to create their own armed forces," he said. Only Georgia did not attend the meeting.

The Ukraine plans to set up its own army and has begun mobilising a separate National Guard for internal security.

Mr. Morozov said: "It was very hard to reach a mutually acceptable agreement on this very important subject."

The right of republics to set up armed forces had always existed in theory but its reaffirmation at the meeting Thursday and Friday was politically significant, he said.

"What is important here is the reaction ... of the leadership of the former union to the processes which are happening and their acceptance of those processes," he said.

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Senegal spruces up for Islamic summit

DAKAR (R) — This is not time to be a petty thief in the capital of Senegal, the small West African country which can hardly believe it is about to host the Islamic summit.

Squads of police are rounding up Dakar's riff-raff, placing them out of sight of the king and presidents coming to the Atlantic edge of the Muslim World.

"Monsters round-ups in Dakar: Police on war footing" reported a headline last week in the government newspaper Le Soleil.

But police forays into the coastline grottos where dropouts, criminals and wandering lunatics have made their humble nests are only the most visible sign of a massive security operation for the Dec. 9-12 summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Several witnesses, some putting the death toll at up to 180, say it was an unprovoked attack on 3,500 mourners who had gone to the Santa Cruz cemetery to mark the death of a separatist in riots two weeks earlier.

Diplomats say some of those wounded in the shooting were too scared to go to hospital. The 89 who did have been in a military hospital for nearly three weeks with only visitors allowed from the International Red Cross.

Mr. Djaelani's remarks came after United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced he was sending an envoy to Jakarta to negotiate conditions for a U.N. mission to investigate the shooting.

The shooting has sparked anger in a number of countries, with one, the Netherlands, suspending aid.

The United Nations does not recognise Jakarta's rule in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed the following year.

Timor commission finds it hard to get anyone to talk

DILI, East Timor (R) — An Indonesian government commission investigating last month's army shooting of mourners in East Timor said Sunday it was difficult to get witnesses to talk.

"It is not so easy to meet them (witnesses and relatives of victims) and to ask them. Will they explain openly? It's quite a problem for us... It is not easy to open their mouths," Djaelani, the Supreme Court Judge leading the inquiry, told reporters.

East Timorese speak of widespread fear in the territory after 16 years of hardline Indonesian rule in which more than 200,000 people are said to have died through war and famine.

That fear was intensified by the Nov. 12 shooting, when the army says 19 people died as troops fired to defend themselves against a mob.

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COLUMN 8 Japanese anti-AIDS posters spark controversy

TOKYO (R) — A poster showing a naked woman inside a condom sparked off a controversy as Japan marked World AIDS Day Sunday. The Society for Women of Action lashed out at the poster, which bears the caption "thin but strong enough for AIDS," saying it depicted women as sex objects or prostitutes, according to local news reports. Another poster showing a Japanese man holding a passport, with the caption "have a nice trip but the careful of AIDS," was criticised by the Japan International Lesbian and Gay Association as lessening the nation that acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) was a foreign disease.

"If one group gives information to us about the other group, the other group will report to the police," he said.

"If the people we meet go missing, who will guarantee their safety?"

The commission is looking for translators to interpret the local Tetum dialect.

One commission member,

Sugiman, a senior official in the Interior Ministry, appealed to journalists to stop following the investigators in their search for witnesses.

He said reporters had frightened away people who lived around the Santa Cruz cemetery when the commission visited it Saturday, the third day of its investigation.

The place was deserted when they arrived except for scores of plainclothes security men, many from the feared army intelligence wing.

One plainclothes policeman was discovered in Mr. Djaelani's hotel suite where reporters had been invited Sunday morning to talk about events leading up to the shooting.

Stunned silence fell on the room when reporters were asked to identify themselves, and one of them said he was from the police.

The reporters protested, with one saying: "We want to be free to express what we know about this but we don't want anyone who is not a reporter in the room."

Italian police free kidnapped teenager

ROME (R) — Police have freed Stefano Giovannetti, an Italian teenager kidnapped a month ago for ransom and held in a cave where he was chained to a wall. Giovannetti, 17, was found in the cave near the town of Frascati, south of Rome in the Alban Hills, where he was abducted, police said. Many Japanese still don't think AIDS is something that has to do with them," Mr. Minami said, adding that the poster of the man caught AIDS from foreign women.

Tokyo City gave free blood tests and staged a concert Sunday, but refused to allow the distribution of free condoms. "The city refused to allow us to distribute condoms at this year's World AIDS Day," Mr. Minami said.

"They seem to think it would encourage people to have sex," newspapers reported that one railway company had refused to display the condom poster because it could be a bad influence on children.

Granny killer gets life sentence

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian saleswoman who terrorised the elderly women of north Sydney for a year was jailed for life for murdering six of them. Judge James Wood said John Glover, 59, had a police record dating back to 1947, some of it involving sexual deviance. He had twice attacked women in the street and tried to remove their underwear before being stopped, Wood said.

"China said its foreign minister has to accompany Premier Li Peng on a visit to India during that period, so it had to definitely cancel the planned visit," Prince Sihanouk told reporters upon arrival.

China, long at odds with Vietnamese who ousted the Khmer Rouge, are the main supporters of the Maoists in their struggle to take power again in Phnom Penh.

"The Chinese will go to Phnom Penh only when its allies, the Khmer Rouge, are in Phnom Penh with honour," a Chinese official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Prince Sihanouk travelled to Thailand to chair a meeting of the SNC, which is supposed to represent Cambodian sovereignty under a peace treaty signed in Paris in October to end 13 years of civil war.

The meeting is being held here instead of Phnom Penh because of the violence that confronted Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, both SNC members and leaders of the Khmer Rouge during the group's "killing fields" rule in Cambodia, in the Cambodian capital last Wednesday.

A million Cambodians lost their lives when the Khmer Rouge ruled the country between 1975 and 1979.

Many in the Phnom Penh mob last Wednesday said members of their families had been killed in the Khmer Rouge's campaign to create a pure agrarian society.

"I think China is worried about the security for its ally, the Khmer Rouge, and wants to discuss this with me during the visit," Prince Sihanouk told reporters upon arrival.

China, long at odds with Vietnamese who ousted the Khmer Rouge, are the main supporters of the Maoists in their struggle to take power again in Phnom Penh.

"The Chinese will go to Phnom Penh only when its allies, the Khmer Rouge, are in Phnom Penh with honour," a Chinese official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Mr. Khien Samphan, the nominal president of the Khmer Rouge, and Mr. Son Sen, its military chief, arrived in Pattaya Saturday and met Prince Sihanouk, who is acknowledged by all as Cambodia's head of state.

An Asian diplomat said China, as one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, would push for concrete security measures to be implemented in Phnom Penh to safeguard the Khmer Rouge and other SNC members.

A police record as a voyeur, the judge said. He had pleaded not guilty to murder but admitted killing the women. The jury found him guilty of murder rather than manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Prosecutor Wendy Robinson said Glover had control of his faculties and could have refrained from killing the women. "He is merely someone who is prepared to commit a crime and to gratify his desires at the expense of others," She told the court Glover lacked remorse and kept the implements of murder — a hammer and gloves — in his car. "He planned to strike again after each and every one of the first five incidents," Robinson said. Glover had a police record dating back to 1947, some of it involving sexual deviance. He had twice attacked women in the street and tried to remove their underwear before being stopped, Wood said.

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The land border with Ghana, briefly opened Saturday, was closed, but customs officials said Lome International Airport was open outside curfew hours. International telephone links remained in service after a blackout Friday and most of Saturday.

The coup threat is the latest political crisis to shake the country this year, following strikes and street protests to end Mr. Eyadema's iron-handed 24-year rule.

Troops have briefly occupied Frelimo in South Africa since arriving at the correct address just a few miles from where it was sent in Frelimo. "I had to look in the Encyclopedia Britannica to find the remote Zulu village where the letter was first sent," said Stephen Whitell, 29, who sent the letter. It bore the correct street address but not the post office sorting code. Post office spokeswoman Valerie Goode said a lesson could be learned. She noted: "This case shows how important it is to use the postcode."

Troops leave Togo premier's residence, keep radio

dusk-to-dawn curfew.

They said two tanks faced the colonial-style building and dozens of troops patrolled the area throughout the night, withdrawing at around 5 a.m. or 6 a.m.

Rebel soldiers guarding the nearby radin building denied the residence had been surrounded.

The soldiers, who claimed to represent the whole Togolese army, said they would stay in charge of the radio station until Mr. Koffigoh dissolved the HCR and named a new government composed of all the country's political groups.

They refused to say how many troops were posted at the building, or what army unit they were from. Reporters counted some 15 soldiers at the front entrance, grouped around a tank.

"We've got no quarrel with Koffigoh, but the HCR has been taking stupid decisions behind his back," said one soldier, referring to the ban on Mr. Eyadema's Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) Party. Mr. Koffigoh was abroad when the decision was made and said he knew nothing about it.

"We'll stay here until Koffigoh names a new government," another soldier said.

Army communiques earlier called on Mr. Eyadema to replace Mr. Koffigoh, but on Friday night the president reaffirmed his faith in the former human rights attorney.

The soldiers denied troops fired directly at crowds in two days of clashes with government supporters Wednesday and Thursday in which at least 25 people were killed. Witnesses at the time said troops shot indiscriminately at passers-by.

They said they fired into the air to protect themselves against hostile civilians, who were attacking lone soldiers in uniform.

Some 100 people have been killed in Togo this year in violence between pro-democracy demonstrators and the army, which allegedly tried to kidnap Mr. Koffigoh.

Sources at the prime minister's residence said Mr. Koffigoh was holding a crisis meeting with aides Sunday morning.

Mr. Koffigoh said Saturday he had started talks to resolve the crisis and would include members of the RPT in discussions, but declined to say if the ban on the party would be lifted.

It said land borders had reopened and announced a shortened curfew Sunday night from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

U.N. predicts 26% skin cancer rise due to ozone depletion

LONDON (R) — Worldwide skin cancer rates will increase by 26 per cent by the year 2000 if the Earth's ozone layer continues to deplete at current rates, a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report released Monday said.

UNEP also predicted an annual 1.6 million to 1.75 million additional cases of eye cataracts by the year 2000 if the ozone layer diminishes by another 10 per cent by the end of the decade.

The ozone layer of the atmosphere protects the Earth from the damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun, a prime cause of skin cancer and eye disease.

The report said recent research shows that ultraviolet radiation breaks down the body's immune system and affects all humans, not just those of light colouring as once thought.

Several years ago scientists discovered a hole in the ozone layer